

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00060 151312Z

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESSES IN TUSCANY AND
EMILIA-ROMAGNA

REF: ROME 1746

1. WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE FLORENCE SOCIALIST CONGRESS,
ALL 17 SOCIALIST PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES OR FEDERATION
CONGRESSES IN THE FLORENCE CONSULAR DISTRICT HAVE NOW BEEN
COMPLETED (NOTE: PRATO IN THE PROVINCE OF FLORENCE AND
RIMINI IN THE PROVINCE OF FORLI HAVE SOCIALIST PARTY
FEDERATIONS INDEPENDENT FROM THOSE AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITALS).
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RIMINI FEDRATION, ALL THE CONGRESSES
RETURNED MAJORITIES FAVORING NATIONAL SECRETARY CRAXI AND HIS
POLICIES.

2. THE FLORENCE CONGRESS AGAIN CONFIRMED THE MINORITY POSITION
OF FORMER TUSCAN SOCIALIST LEADER PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY LUIGI
MARIOTTI. HIS LIST RECEIVED ONLY 6 OF THE 31 COUNCIL SEATS
WITH 5 GOING TO A GROUP HEADED BY FLORENCE VICE MAYOR COLZI
AND 20 SEATS TO THE LIST SUPPORTING CRAXI AND LED BY TUSCAN REGIONAL
PRESIDENT LAGORIO AND FLORENCE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FERRACI.
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3. THE CONGRESS, WHICH WAS OPENED BY A WELCOMING ADDRESS BY
FLORENCE MAYOR GABBUGGIANI (PCI), FEATURED LENGTHY SPEECHES
AND POLEMICS BY DELEGATES SUPPORTING EVERYTHING FROM THE
NECESSITY FOR CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
AND CALLS FOR THE REFUSAL TO WORK WITH THEM UNDER ANY
CIRCUMSTANCES (LEFTISTS WITHIN THE MAJORITY SUPPORTING CRAXI).

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE MANU SPEECHES ON THE QUOTE ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT UNQUOTE WITH THE SPEAKERS SHOWING CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AS TO WHAT THE CONCEPT ACTUALLY MEANS.

4. THERE WERE ALSO CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF THE PCI. FOR EXAMPLE, FLORENCE SOCIALIST VICE MAYOR COLZI INTIMATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE SOCIALISTS WERE AN INEFFECTIVE AND WEAK MINORITY IN THE FLORENCE CITY GOVERNMENT# SOCIALIST REGIONAL ALDERMAN FOR INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, MARIO LEONE, AIRED THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THE SOCIALIST SHOULD LEAVE THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT QUOTE SINCE THE PARTY DOES NOT HAVE A CLEAR POLICY AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ROTATE LIKE SOLITARY SATELLITES AROUND THE COMMUNISTS UNQUOTE.

5. FROM THE SPEECHES OF COLZI AND LEONE AND FROM COMMENTS MADE BY OTHER DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS, IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT MANY SOCIALISTS IN THE CITY, PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE QUOTE BECOMING MORE OPPRESSIVE THAN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS UNQUOTE (THEIR WORDS) AND THAT DISCONTENT ON THIS SCORE IS GROWING. GORDON

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